



PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE AND SAFETY
Exhibit No. 1
Date 4-8-09
Bill No. SJ 38

April 8, 2009

TO: Members of the Senate Public Health, Welfare and Safety Committee and Senator Sharon Stewart-Peregoy

FR: AMPHO Legislative Committee Co-Chairs Ellen Leahy, Missoula City-County Health Officer and Barbara Schneeman, RiverStone Health

RE: **SJ 38 – Interim Study on Health Disparities**

The Association of Montana Public Health Officials (AMPHO) would like to express our support of SJ 38, which provides for an interim study of health disparities in Montana. As you are well aware, local public health, along with our community health center partners are often looked upon as the healthcare safety net for low and moderate income Montanans. In the daily work of public health, we diagnose and investigate health problems; inform, educate, and empower people about health issues; mobilize community partnerships and action to identify and solve health problems; and link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.

We look forward to participating in this important interim study and urge your support of SJ 38.